

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sheet material conveying apparatus is provided with retard levers for supporting a retard roller shaft, which are rotative centering  
5 on the central axis of rotation so as to press the retard roller to a conveying roller. Retard pressing springs are hooked to the spring latches of the retard levers, and the hooks of a slider. When the limiter gear of a torque limiter rotates,  
10 the tightening force exerted by a stepped spring against an inner race is caused to change, thus changing the rotating-load torque of the retard roller. A motor enables the limiter gear to rotate, while moving the slider up and down. In  
15 this way, it is made possible to change the rotating load torque of the retard roller, while changing the pressurized contact force of the retard roller against the conveying roller. With the structure thus arranged, it is attempted to  
20 make the life of rollers longer, and to prevent the occurrence of double feeding of sheet material.